

THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

ALPENA



Michigan's Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) partners with the State Historic Preservation Office to fulfill the archaeological responsibilities of the National Historic Preservation Act. The OSA's mission includes the protection of the state's archaeological and underwater historic resources, which promotes economic growth through tourism. Just ask the people of Alpena who have seen an increase in visitors since the establishment of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in 2000. Sport divers visit the sanctuary's fifty known shipwrecks, as well as the forty just outside the boundaries, and divers and non-divers alike attend the sanctuary's Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center and marine-related events. The center includes exhibits, a theater, an artifact conservation laboratory, curatorial space, community outreach centers, a gift shop, boat docks, dive tank, researchers' field station, and administrative offices. In 2006 the heritage center hosted events including a tall ship cruise and the annual maritime festival, which was attended by over 7,000 visitors. The center also placed interpretive markers along the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail. Field research is ongoing and has thus far resulted in the documentation of a dozen wrecks using divers, remotely operated vehicles, and remote sensing equipment, and the placement of over 20 permanent mooring buoys on heavily visited wrecks. The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary is jointly managed by the Office of the State Archaeologist and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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NOAA Designation:	2000



OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

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